Mary Mackillop-By Samantha Yun 5G

Mary Helen Mackillop was a devoted and determined person with a heart full of love. She was also known as Australia’s First Saint and helper of the poor. With the help of her sisters (the Josephites), the support from various bishops and priests and her faith in God, Mary was able to help the poor, lonely and disadvantaged. Mary was full of compassion and willpower change people in their faith to believe in God.

Mary Mackillop was born on the 15th of January, 1842 in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne and baptized 6 weeks later on the 28th of February at St Francis, Melbourne. Mary earned the love of many people through her faithful teachings. In 1869 Mary took her religious vows on the 15th of August and took her final vows on the 8th of December and became a nun. Mary’s symbol for the Josephites was half a diamond on the left and in the middle was a full diamond and on the right was the other half of the diamond on the left. The three J’s in the symbol represent Jesus, Joseph and Saint John the Baptist. Mary established a school in Adelaide from the help of her sisters also called ‘The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

As years went by, Mary was able to establish more and more schools and also recruit more sisters. Even though in 1871, the 2nd of September, Mary was sadly excommunicated by bishop Sheil and 47 supportive sisters that believed in Mary were expelled. Mary made such big changes, even those with cold hearts could love, but we all knew it had to end someday. Mary suffered a painful stroke in Rotorua, New Zealand and from then on was very ill. She died on the 8th of August 1909 and was buried in Gore Hill Cemetery.

Mary Mackillop lived doing good deeds, educating the poor and comforting the lonely, but even after she died the good deeds still kept happening. Strange miracles happened after Mary’s death and the patients claim it was from the help of Mary Mackillop. In 1993 the Vatican accepted Mary Mackillop responsible for miraculously curing a woman who had leukaemia in 1961. Also despite doctors giving a woman no hope for a baby, the woman fell pregnant and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy and in the next decade she also gave birth to another five babies. The Vatican also accepted this as one of Mary’s Miracles.

After the two miracles were approved by the Vatican, Mary was on the path to Sainthood. In 1972 Mary was put forward as a candidate for the honour of beatification and canonisation. On the 1st of February, 1973 Mary was to be beatified and canonised. After a long wait, Mary was beatified on the 19th of January, 1995 at Randwick Racecourse, Sydney in a mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. 15 years later, Mary was canonised as Saint Mary of the Cross at a mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in St Peters Square in the Vatican on the 17th of October, 2010.

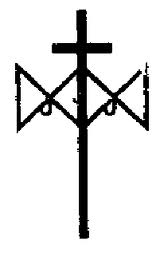
Mary Mackillop will be an inspiration to young kids, teenagers, adults and grandparents. Mary loves us all the same.

By Samantha Yun 5G

Resources-

<http://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/mackillop.htm>

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mackillop-mary-helen-4112>

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?q=Mary+Mackillop+Josephie+symbol&hl=en&biw=1366&bih=593&gbv=2&tbm=isch&tbnid=-vGxhZlN5Aw3NM:&imgrefurl=http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au/about/history/armidale/religious_orders.htm&docid=wLkM9n19ADGwAM&w=201&h=317&ei=c29CTsriJISbmQXr0-m8CQ&zoom=1)<http://www.marymackillop.org.au/>